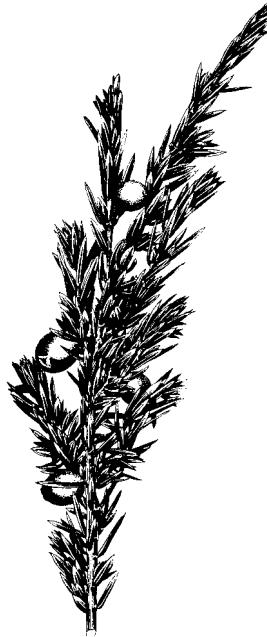


COMMON JUNIPER

Juniperus communis L.

Common juniper is found primarily as a shrub in pastures and open spaces on shallow, rocky soil. It occurs infrequently and locally in Penobscot, Somerset, Franklin, Oxford, Cumberland and York counties. It is occasionally found as a tree. Specimens up to 25 feet in height have been recorded, but are extremely rare.

The **bark** is grayish brown in color and occurs in thin, longitudinal, shredded layers. The inner portion has a reddish tinge. The **leaves** occur in whorls of three. They are sharp, stiff, dagger-like, and persist for several seasons. They are from $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in length. The upper surface is concave and marked with a broad, white line. The underside, which due to the bending of the twigs usually appears uppermost, is dark green. The leaves persist for several seasons. The **fruit** is dark blue, covered with a thin bloom, slightly smaller than a pea, remains on the trees during the winter, and has a strong resinous taste. The fruit is usually found only on select trees since male and female flowers are generally produced on separate trees. This trait is common to most junipers.



The **wood** is hard, close-grained, and very durable. The heartwood is light brown. Large stems make long-lasting fence posts if the bark is removed.

GROUND JUNIPER

Juniperus communis var. *depressa* Pursh

Ground, common or Otisfield juniper is the flat-lying form common in pastures and poor sandy, gravely, rocky soils throughout Maine.